



Greg Clarke - Chairman  
The Football League  
30 Gloucester Place  
LONDON  
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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

5 July 2013

Ref: LG/4468

Dear Mr Clarke,

**Re: Coventry City Football Club**

I write in relation to the proposal for Coventry City Football Club (CCFC) to ground share with Northampton Town next season.

It is being reported that CCFC have agreed a deal to play their home matches at Northampton Town's Sixfields Stadium; a venue which is nearly 35 miles away from Coventry. This has understandably caused anger and concern amongst Sky Blue supporters who overwhelmingly oppose any such plan.

The supporters can see no justification whatsoever for CCFC to seek to play their home games outside the City from which the club takes its name. They feel that sanctioning a move away from Coventry - even on a temporary basis - would diminish the identity of the football club and impair its capacity to bring together the local community and foster a collective spirit. They fear this would irrevocably damage the clubs support and could be the beginning of the end for CCFC as it is currently known.

As the Sky Blue Trust have quite rightly pointed out, there is already a purpose built home for CCFC in Coventry at the Ricoh Arena and an offer on the table from ACL to allow the club to play there for cost whilst in administration and to discuss further arrangements thereafter. The supporters argue that this option should be vigorously pursued to prevent the club unnecessarily moving away from Coventry and suffering the resultant declines in both support and revenues.

The supporters will understandably look to the Football League to protect their interests, the interests of this historic club and those of the City of Coventry and in so doing reject any proposal for CCFC to play their home games outside their home city.

It is important that the Football League is fully aware of the level of supporter opposition to a move away from Coventry and I therefore enclose a sample of the correspondence I have received on this matter.

I would be grateful for your assurances that the Football League will take fully into consideration the views of the fans when looking at any such proposal in this respect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob Ainsworth'.

**The Rt. Hon Bob Ainsworth MP**  
**Coventry North East**

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